

Communications  
Workers of America  
AFL-CIO  
West Virginia Area

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May 26, 2011

VIA E-MAIL & US MAIL

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
The Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Docket 11-65

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to express my strong support of AT&T's proposed acquisition of T-Mobile USA. Should this transaction be approved, it will bring significant benefits to the people of West Virginia.

AT&T currently employs 600 workers in West Virginia with many of those positions being union jobs with good wages, benefits and employment security. Should this merger be approved, those numbers will certainly increase as AT&T has publicly committed to an aggressive plan to expand access to 4G LTE wireless broadband across the state.

In West Virginia, there is a significant digital divide between our rural and urban areas. AT&T's commitment to build out 4G LTE coverage to 97% of all Americans – including a large expansion in West Virginia – will help address that disparity and bring new opportunities to the citizens of West Virginia. By bring the promise of telemedicine and distance learning to life, broadband coverage will opens endless new possibilities for our working families.

In addition, this commitment to build-out broadband in nearly every part of the U.S. within six years will be a key stimulus for economic development in West Virginia and the nation, and help put the U.S. back on the track to international competitiveness.


On a national level, the merger will result in nearly 40,000 current T-Mobile workers having better representation and rights at work. AT&T management's record of full neutrality towards union membership will create a stronger bargaining voice in the workplace and the ability to bargain over wages, benefits and employment security.

I also want to note that Sprint, which was unsuccessful in its efforts to acquire T-Mobile and is now opposing this transaction, has a disappointing history of outsourcing operations, especially in customer service and tech work and shares T-Mobile USA's strong opposition to worker self-organization. Not too mention that Sprint has failed to invest in any serious way in bringing mobile broadband coverage to the people of West Virginia.

The benefits to West Virginia in terms of broadband speed and build-out, economic development and workers rights are clear. I hope they will be central factors in your deliberations on this acquisition.

I urge you to approve the proposed acquisition.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elaine A. Harris".

Elaine A. Harris  
CWA International Representative –  
West Virginia

CC: Commissioner Michael Copps  
Commissioner Robert McDowell  
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn  
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker  
West Virginia Public Service Commission  
Chairman Albert  
Commissioner Palmer  
Commissioner McKinney